

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00221 191523Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SCCT-01

/065 W

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R 191458Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 779

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 221

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: REACTION TO "BLOODY SUNDAY" PAYMENTS

1. PRESS REPORTS DEC. 19 ANNOUNCED DECISION PART BRITISH GOVERNMENT MAKE PAYMENTS TOTALING POUNDS STERLING, 41,717 SURVIVORS 13 MALE DEMONSTRATORS KILLED SUNDAY JANUARY 30, 1972 IN LONDONDERRY WHEN FIRED UPON BY BRITISH ARMY PARATROOPERS. AT MEETING DEC. 18 SOME TWENTY SURVIVORS AGREED ACCEPT PAYMENTS RANGING FROM SOME 16,000 POUNDS STERLING TO WIDOW WITH LARGE FAMILY TO 250 POUNDS FOR RELATIVES YOUNG UNMARRIED MALES UNEMPLOYED AT TIME OF DEATHS. MINISTRY DEFENSE STATEMENT AFFIRMS EQUALLY LACK OF PROOF THAT MEN WERE KILLED WHILE HANDLING BOMBS OR FIREARMS AND THAT THERE NO LEGAL LIABILITY FROM LAWFUL ACTION OF TROOPS IN FIRING IN SELF DEFENSE. OFFER BEING MADE ACCORDING MINISTRY STATEMENT IN SPIRIT GOOD WILL AND RECONCILIATION.

2. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) LEADER JOHN HUME ASSERTED THAT GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TANTAMOUNT TO ADMISSION OF GUILT PART MILITARY AND CALLED FOR CHARGES TO BE LAID AGAINST SOLDIERS. THERE ALSO EARLY REPORTS OF CRITICISM ABOUT PAYMENTS ARISING FROM THOSE WHO OPPOSE PAYMENTS OSTENSIBLY ON GROUNDS LONDONDERRY DEMONSTRATION WAS ILLEGAL.

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SPICER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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